

FRIDAY, December 26, 1851.

The Senate was called to order by the President, pursuant to adjournment—Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Smith—Roll called—Quorum present.

The journal of Wednesday was read and adopted.

Mr GRIMES announced to the Senate the death of General Edward Burleson, as follows:

Mr. President: I arise to perform a painful duty—to announce the death of General Edward Burleson, who died in this city this morning at twenty minutes after seven o'clock. But a few days ago he was among us in health and vigor—he is now no more.

The deceased needs no eulogy from me—his life is a portion of the history of Texas. The best eulogy I could offer, would be to declare him an honest man.

I offer the following resolutions for the consideration of the Senate:

WHEREAS, General Edward Burleson, late a member of this Senate, departed this life in the city of Austin, this morning at twenty minutes after seven o'clock; therefore,

Resolved, That a committee of ten Senators be appointed to make the necessary arrangements for his funeral and superintend his interment at the city burying-ground, to-morrow at ten o'clock.

Resolved, further, That each Senator wear crape on the left arm for thirty days as a testimonial of respect for the deceased.

Resolved, further, That we deplore the loss of one whose life may emphatically be said to be a prominent part of the history of Texas.

Resolved, further, That we do hereby tender to his bereaved family our condolence for their irreparable loss.

Resolved, further, That the committee on the part of the Senate be requested to act in concert with like committees on the part of the House of Representatives, Austin Lodge No. 12, Metropolitan Division No. 29 of the Sons of Temperance, and on the part of the citizens generally.

And, resolved, further, That the Secretary of the Senate be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. WILSON then addressed the Senate as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT:—In compliance with a request communicated to me within the last few minutes, from a quarter which leaves

me no option in the matter, I assume the melancholy duty of offering a few remarks in support of the resolutions which have just been submitted for the consideration of the Senate.

The performance of this duty necessarily involves a brief reference to some of the leading events which mark the distinguished and adventurous career of him whose loss we now sincerely deplore; and I regret that I have not had time to inform myself more fully in reference to the facts upon which it will be necessary to touch. For any other purpose, no preparation is needed; for eulogy upon Edward Burleson, addressed to men who knew him as we have known him, would be but an idle waste of words.

Fancy cannot embellish the simple grandeur of his character, nor oratory, even could we command it, enhance our deep grief for his loss. And it is well that it is so; for who that feels, as every Senator and every citizen within these walls must feel, could do justice to the subject, were it not happily true that the simple recital of his deeds is their highest eulogium?

Idle, indeed, were the attempt to elevate by high-wrought encomiums, the character of one whose name, as the resolutions so justly set forth, "forms a prominent part of the history of Texas."

General EDWARD BURLESON, though he had attained the age of fifty-three years, was taken from us in the prime of that life, and the full possession of those faculties, which, for twenty years, he had unsparingly devoted to the service of his country.

We learn that he was a native of Buncombe county, North Carolina; that he emigrated to Texas from Tipton county, Tennessee, in May, 1831; and henceforward he is ours, and his deeds belong to us. From the date of his arrival in Texas to this the hour of his death, the history of Edward Burleson is the history of Texas. There is no page of her annals which does not register his name. There is no event in her progress, in which he is not either a leader or an active participant.

Intimately connected with the darkest and brightest hours of her destiny, he has emerged from the darkness with no cloud upon his fame; he has basked in the full noontide of her prosperity—a prosperity which he, as much as any man, contributed to bring about—with no feeling of triumph or elevation except for his country.

From a thousand trials he had come forth unscathed and pure; with military glory sufficient to have turned the heads of a hundred modern heroes, he retained in his heart till the day of his death, the simplicity of a child.

Honor to the brave and true! honor to the conqueror! honor to the patriot and sage! and thrice honored be his memory whom success could not spoil—whom distinction and triumph could not turn aside from the purity, the simplicity, the innocence of his obscure and guileless childhood!

It is known to every Texian that, in 1835, when first the citizen soldiers of Texas took the field for the resistance of Mexican misrule and oppression, and the vindication of their rights, General Burleson was one of the foremost in the field; and in consideration of his valor and devotion to the protection of the frontier against the inroads of the savages, and the many proofs which he had given of his capacity for military command, was at once, by the voice of the people, placed in the elevated and responsible position of Colonel commanding the first regiment of Texas—a position second only to his who was then without a rival, the good and great Stephen F. Austin, Commander-in-Chief.

It is needless to dwell upon the events of that campaign which resulted in the fall of the Mexican stronghold, *San Antonio de Bexar*: its details are familiar. Left, by the increasing illness of General Austin and his necessary attendance as a member of the Consultation, in the sole command of the army, the investment of Bexar devolved upon General Burleson. What a position he occupied then! Who can estimate the amount of responsibility which then rested upon him? or the amount of prudence and firmness necessary to curb the headstrong, to assure the timid, and to unite the discordant elements thrown together in his own command; while a sleepless vigilance was necessary to enable him, with far inferior numbers, to baffle the attempts of the enemy? Let us look for a moment at the circumstances of the country, and the attitude of affairs around them at this time.

Turning our eyes westward, we see Ugartichea with his troops fortified in the city, while Cos, with his legion of semi-barbarians hovers upon the plain; and yet farther west, we see dim and distant the despot with his countless hordes, who know no mercy and are strangers to pity, hanging ominously upon our borders, ready to sweep, with destructive and ruthless career, over our devoted land. Look to the East, and what picture is presented to our view? The trembling mother strains the unconscious babe to her agitated bosom, and shivers with terrible apprehension at the mention of the coming war; dark browed men (the few who are not with the patriotic band of the San Antonio, nor called upon to participate in the momentous delibe-

rations which agitate the Consultation,) go about gloomily predicting evil, and gloom and apprehension pervade the land.—What obstacle interposes to prevent the rushing on of those mighty hosts to the easy conquest that awaits them? Why is their march delayed? *BURLESON is in their path*, and blood must flow and death must hold a banquet before they pass.

Many an anxious eye is turned upon that handful of men and their gallant leader; many a heart is strained to its full tension with anxiety to learn the fate of the little band in the far wilderness. Brother! bear thee bravely up, for heavy is the responsibility which presses upon thee. Brother! be strong and valiant in the fight, for much depends upon its issue. Soldier: steel thy heart, and let sternness gather upon thy soul, for whisperings of discontent are around thee. Many men with reckless daring would urge thee to rash, adventurous deeds; but be thou stern in thine unflinching firmness, for one misstep conducts to ruin—ruin to thee, ruin to thy band, and ruin irretrievable to the land that thou lovest, and that places her trust in thee!

How the difficulties of his position were met and overcome—how victory perched upon his standard—how hope revived in every heart, and joy assumed the place of gloom—all Texans know, and history will record.

But why attempt to depict the scenes through which he passed during the eventful and glorious career of which this morning's sun arose upon the happy close? His was not one of those unequal characters in which, by uncertain, eccentric and fitful manifestations of greatness or valor, the world is occasionally dazzled into admiration: he was ever consistent with himself—never less than a patriot and a hero.

We might speak of the Grass Fight, in which his presence and example, as well as his active participation, contributed in no small degree to sustain the firmness and stimulate the courage of his fellow soldiers; and of San Jacinto, where his services were such as will not speedily be forgotten: but how much must still be left unsaid!

Not only against the Mexican foe did he do battle in his country's cause, but to the red man of the prairie his name was a terror and a spell. Few, indeed, are the battle plains in Texas where his footsteps were not red with the lifeblood of our foes.

The soldier of thirty battles, who never turned his back upon the foe, the hero who never knew defeat. Time would fail me

were I to attempt a recital of the deeds he has done for his country.

And not only was his bosom freely bared to the enemies of Texas, while yet Texas struggled alone for an existence, but when the United States, after we had become a part of that great and glorious nation, and all solicitude for our own safety had passed away, made an appeal to arms and called upon Texas to furnish her portion of men for the strife, though his hair was white and his frame had felt the touch of past fatigues and accumulating years, *he* was there. On the heights of Monterey he was seen in front of his friends and neighbors, neither holding nor seeking office, nor for the gratification of personal ambition; and his voice was heard, in short, pithy sentences, exhorting them, by the memory of their former glory, to preserve unsullied the fame of Texas, and to acquit themselves as in days of old.

On the hills of Monterey he fought his last fight with mortal foe: but there was yet another enemy to meet, from whom none may hope deliverance. This morning he has sunk beneath the stroke of death, unconquered still—for even in death he was a conquerer.

It is not alone to the military character of our departed friend that we should direct our contemplation, for his fame as a statesman and his honor as a gentleman are equally untarnished. In whatever aspect we view his character, he is equally worthy of admiration. With as many military honors as deck the brow of any living man, with all his experience in legislation, with all the merited honors which the people of Texas have conferred upon him, he met the youngest, the humblest, the most inexperienced Senator upon this floor on terms of perfect equality. Humble, unassuming, yet dignified in his deportment, warm and true in his attachments, truthful as light and above all suspicion of time-serving or dishonest legislation, behold him as he moved daily among us, sublime in his patriarchal simplicity.

His was a character which never could receive a borrowed dignity from accidental position: all that was great about him was inherent in him; and whether we view him as the occupant of a seat in this chamber, or in the chair of the Vice-President, at the head of an army, or in the domestic circle, we find him still the same—a successful soldier without personal ambition, a hero with the unassuming manners of a quiet country gentleman, a politician without guile.

His is, indeed, an enviable and an enduring fame. The most

rancorous enemy he ever had on earth has never dared to assail his courage or his conduct as a soldier, and "even the breath of calumny has never dared to taint" the purity of his reputation as a statesman.

Would to God that the young men of our country, instead of searching through the musty annals of the dim and distant past for half fictitious heroes as the objects of their emulation, would study the character and the history of him of whom the griping hand of Death has this morning bereft us, and take his life as their example.

But in contemplating the character of our departed friend, and indulging a laudable grief for the loss that we and the country have sustained, let us not forget that, though the noonday and prime of his life were devoted to his country, as the shadows began to lengthen along his path, he remembered that he also owed a duty to his God.

How consolatory to his afflicted family, his relatives and innumerable friends, is the reflection that, while the latter years of his life were marked by no diminution of patriotism or abatement of that zeal for the welfare of Texas which through life distinguished him, they were consecrated and dedicated to the service of that God in whose presence this morning his soul is called to appear! How gratifying is the knowledge that, before he was called away from a life of glory here, he had secured an abundant entrance into a life of far more exceeding and eternal glory in the world which is to come!

The eye which never quailed before a foe in his ire, nor looked coldly upon a friend in his distress, is set and glassy in death! The honest, manly heart that never throbbed with an ignoble emotion, is now but a clod of the field! The icy finger of the king of terrors has touched the source of life, and the warrior's pulses have ceased to play! He is gone from among us! The old Texian—the patriot—the hero—is no more! No more shall his voice be heard in this chamber, nor his quiet, kindly smile greet our eyes when we turn towards his vacant chair!

Let us bow with resignation to the Divine will. The days of our need have passed away, and they who have borne the burthen and heat of our day of trouble and trial are passing away to their repose. While Texas most needed the good right hand of the warrior, she was not deprived of it. While his labor was yet incomplete, his life was prolonged: but now his work is finished, and he has gone to his rest. Wherefore do we repine?

Old soldier, fare-thee-well! Texian, good and true, fare-well! Patriot—hero—sage—christian—peace be to thy ashes!

Shall we erect to the memory of our departed brother a monument of polished marble or of enduring brass? Shall we engrave his deeds upon tablets of stone and of metal? Shall we to his memory erect a fane or build a mighty monumental pile to preserve his name in coming ages?

All this, and more than this, justice and gratitude call on us to do. But he needs it not at our hands. He can never be forgotten. Brass and marble are destructible. The works of men's hands moulder into dust, as do the hands that erect them. But he whom we lament has a monument more enduring in the affections of his fellow-citizens. Let every trace of his name be obliterated from our history, yet oblivion shall not swallow it. Tradition will preserve his glorious name and his gallant deeds, and, while Texas has an existence, EDWARD BURLESON can never be forgotten!

SPEECH OF MR. DANCY.

MR. DANCY then addressed the Senate as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: It is unnecessary for me to add anything to what has been so truly and eloquently said of the deceased by the member from Matagorda. Representing, as I do, a district in which General Burleson spent most of the last twenty years of his life, a district in which more of his relatives now reside than in any other in the State, I feel that I would be doing injustice to myself and those whom I represent, if I were to remain silent on the present occasion.

The tolling of that bell which was heard this morning, announced to the world, that the sun which had risen upon him daily for the last fifty-three years since his birth, had risen for the last time to witness the mortal existence of Edward Burleson. That bell has announced that he has departed for another world; and we may exclaim with truth "let me die death of the" just and brave, "let my last end be like his."

Mr. President, it has been correctly remarked, that the history of Edward Burleson would be the history of Texas for the last twenty years.

He was one of the first who took up arms in the cause of his country, when the roar of artillery came booming over our western prairies in 1835. He commanded at San Antonio, when the brave and chivalrous Milam led his three hundred to the storming of that city. His name is connected with all the glorious events which occurred during that remarkable period of our history. Again in 1836, when the storm of war had swept over our country, when the west had been rendered desolate and

the hand of the destroyer had carried death and desolation beyond the Brazos, and to the very banks of the San Jacinto, we find him in the army of his country. After Travis, and Bowie, and Crockett had poured out their blood upon the white rocks of the Alamo as a libation to liberty, and those under Fannin had been massacred upon the plains of Goliad, we find Edward Burleson commander of the first regiment upon the glorious field of San Jacinto, in that battle which decided the destinies of Texas. All his actions in the battle-field showed that 'mid the clash of steel, the dust and smoke and roar and din of battle his brave spirit knew no fear. Whenever his country called upon him he was ready to serve her. He commanded in the fight when Cordova with his band was defeated near the town of Seguin. He commanded also in the Cherokee fight and the battle of Plum Creek. Whenever the yell of the savage carried terror into the dwellings of our frontier settlers he was ready to mount his horse and go forth with his countrymen to the defence of the frontier families. The people of western Texas always felt that in him they had a friend who was ready to risk his life in their defence.

It would be useless for me to enumerate the battles which he fought, or for oratory to attempt to give additional lustre to his deeds; the simple narrative of his life is his highest praise. I regard it as a duty, however, to refer to those events of his life for the purpose of doing that justice to the memory of the dead which I was always ready to accord to him while living.

He not only served his country in a military capacity, but for the last fifteen years he has been almost continuously in the councils of the Republic and State of Texas. We all know that he was a member of this body for years, and like a faithful sentinel upon the watchtower of his country, "he died at his post." And now, Mr. President, although we mourn his death, we mourn not as those who have no hope. Although we deplore his loss as that of a faithful public servant, yet we are cheered by the reflection that death, to him, has only opened the portals of a bright and glorious immortality.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Scott, one thousand copies of the resolutions and remarks of the Senators on the occasion were ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate.

Messrs. Wilson, Grimes, Dancy, Bigelow, Burks, Davis, Day,

Scott, Bogart and Eddy were appointed the committee of Arrangements as contemplated in the above resolutions.

On motion of Mr. Duggan, the committee of Arrangements were instructed to select a suitable place for a State Burying-ground.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY, December 27th, 1851.

The Senate was called to order by the President, pursuant to adjournment—Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Smith—Roll called—Quorum present.

Mr. Eddy, from the committee of arrangements appointed on yesterday, made the following report, which was adopted:

COMMITTEE ROOM, December 27, 1851.

To the Hon. J. W. HENDERSON,

President of the Senate.

The committee appointed on the part of the Senate, to act in connection with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives, and also to confer with the officers and members of Austin Lodge No. 12, in arranging the funeral services on the occasion of the decease of our worthy, venerated and highly esteemed brother member, Gen. Edward Burleson, have agreed upon the following

PROGRAMME:

The two branches of the Legislature will repair to the residence of N. C. Raymond at half-past 9 o'clock, a. m., in procession, and return with the corpse in the following order:

Marshal.]	Chaplain.
Hearse with Distinguished Deceased.	
Pall Bearers.	
Relatives of the deceased.	
Orator.	
President and Ex-President of the Senate.	
Members of the Senate.	
Officers of the Senate.	
Speaker of the House of Representatives.	
Members of the House of Representatives.	
Officers of the House of Representatives.	
Citizens.	